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# REAR ROLL CALL

IN  
REAR'S  
FLAG

FOR REAL MEN AND WOMEN IN SERVICE

HOMESTEAD

Vol. 2, No. 18

Boatmen's Bank Building, St. Louis 2, Mo.

June 1, 1944

EDR PREDICTS BRIGHT FUTURE FOR REA

"REA will continue, I know, to serve wartime agriculture to the best of its ability," President Roosevelt said in a message to the Ninth Birthday Anniversary Party of REA, held recently in the Hotel Chase in St. Louis.

"It also must be made ready to proceed most efficiently in the fulfillment of plans for the America of the future." As soon as war conditions permit, REA will bring many thousands more of our citizens the hope of a future in which drudgery will be minimized", the President added.

Principal speaker at the banquet was Robert H. Shields, solicitor of the Department of Agriculture. Other addresses were given by Deputy Administrators Vincent D. Nicholson and William J. Neal. Administrator Slattery presided.

Featured on the program was the unveiling of a portrait of Charles O. Falkenwald, late chief of the Applications and Loans Division. Participating in the ceremony were Chester Lake, J. Warner Pyles, George Lewis and George Long, who, with Mr. Falkenwald, composed REA's first "group" of "field men".

Nearly five hundred persons were present. The banquet was sponsored by the REA Athletic Association.

# IS WATKINS DEGAUSSSED WITH THE NAVY??

"Now Caledonia looks like Arizona," says Lt.(JG) Bruce O. Watkins. "The two differences are 1). there is lots of ocean around 2). there is more precipitation.

"There is a considerable variety of natives here. First, the Negroes. The men are very fine physical specimens and the unmarried men dye their hair red. It is quite a sight to behold. The women keep themselves hidden. Then there are Javanese. The women are very small and short and wear a long dress. They often have a conical straw hat. There are Chinese, as usual, and some Japs. Then there are the White French, who look like us, only talk different. Then, to make it more interesting there are the U. S. Army, Navy, and Marines, plus New Zealanders and Aussies. There are jeeps, peeps, trucks, motorcycles, amphibious trucks, etc. running around like mad."

Lt. Watkin's is in the Navy's Degaussing Section, and is on military furlough from the Technical Standards Division.

"The latest rumor," writes S-2/C "T8d" Grndoff, "is that we are going to stay here at Great Lakes for Radionan School. So if any former REAers are up here unbeknownst to me, I hope they'll get in touch with me. Address O.G.U. Postoffice, Co. 706, USNTC, Great Lakes, Ill."

Ensign George Scherrer has gone back to Princeton after a siege at the U. S. Naval Hospital in St. Albans, N. Y. Seems that an old operation gave way and they had to do it over. George sent us a graphic description of the operation (it lasted an hour and a quarter.) He says he's worth more now because they sewed him up with silver wire. Incidentally, another one of his brothers joined the Navy the other day, making a total of five boys in uniform. "The other one", says George, "is making good use of REA electricity on the farm."

"Anglo-American relations need no help from the State Dept," says Pvt. Tom Murray in a letter from London, "because the girls over here are very much prejudiced in favor of the Yanks. They dance very well and like American movies. Incidentally, movie

prices over here are stiff. "A Guy Named Joe" was shown for six shillings a throw (\$1.20 to you.) - - All clothes are rationed over here. Non-rationed stuff is almost unobtainable. I paid about \$7 for an ersatz Swiss alarm clock. - - This burg oozes with tradition, literary color, and historical associations, but it's not as beautiful as my favorite capital, Washington, D. C."

Drop The Roll Call A Line Soon. Our Address is 840 Boatmen's Bldg., St. Louis 2, Mo.

## REA'ERS 'ROUND THE WORLD

First news from A/S Ray Garcia is that he has three weeks more of boot training in San Diego. REAers will remember Ray for his cheery smile and Castilian sense of humor.

Back in the fold at REA is Leroy Moyer, a few pounds lighter and much wiser. Welcome home, Lee!

Capt. Joe Thurston says he's not married but he feels like a family man in many respects. He's been a company commander for almost two years and his family consists of hundreds of men who come to him for everything from fatherly advice to tactical information.

Recent visitor to REA's offices was Lt. (JG) Frances Ruhl, Information Division's representative in the WAVES. Frances passed through St. Louis on her way to her new assignment in New York, after a long spell at Purcell, Okla. In the latter place she was in the same office as Ensign Kenneth Hale's sister. Small world!

Lt. Robert Haas also was in St. Louis recently but he didn't even have time to leave the station. Off one train, on another, and away! Next stop, San Antonio. Bob expects to leave the States in a few months.

Major Don Basler says he understands now why Englishmen like flowers. There's a flower garden in every yard and around every home, he writes.

Lt. Joe M. Davis dropped in last week. Joe's been with the Airborne Engineers for a long time. Did you know that, before he received the call, he was studying to be an undertaker?

## GOING UP

Here it is again -- the list of REAers in uniform who have recently received a boost in rank. When you see another stripe on YOUR sleeve, write the Roll Call so we can "shout it from the housetops" for you.

Capt. Richard L. Patrick  
Major Donnan E. Basler  
S-1/c Nick Martinez  
Capt. Charles L. Kelchner  
Sgt. Jack L. Wolfenson  
Lt. (JG) Frances Ruhl  
Major Robert E. Larson  
S-2/c Wilmer F. ("Ted") Orndoff  
Lt. S. Houston Lay  
Capt. Louis C. Stephens  
Capt. Joseph D. Thurston

## THE HOME FIRES

Moving days are here for many offices in REA. Tech Standards goes to the sixth floor, Information to the eighth, Insurance all the way to the eleventh. Other offices similarly uprooted have settled down in their new surroundings . . . The Cards are in first place now and the Browns are also a tie for top place . . . Tommy Dorsey comes to town for a concert and dance! Gene Krupa's his drummer now. . . . The Muny Opera opens this week with "The Open Road". . . . Interesting sight in St. Louis are the lady street-car drivers. There's a blonde on the Hodiamont line and another on the Delmar. . . . Henry Shotwell, REA engineer, is one of three St. Louis architects who have drawn up plans for postwar development of the river-front. It includes an airport, helicopter field, apartment houses and an REA building.

## V-MAIL JOTTINGS

Lt. Neal Thompson V-mails that Italy is anything but sunny. Robbie Barnes, he says, is over there too, but so far they haven't met.

T/5 Charlie Lewis' new station is in the Admiralty Islands near a large air-strip. He says the pilots give him all the news, hours after it happens.

Capt. Charlie Kelchner writes from England that enlisted men do better with the fair sex over there than the officers.

The third Charlie to V-Mail the Roll Call is Pvt. C. Cox. He's at Anzio and likes the climate but "it's not comparable to the States."

THE REA ROLL CALL

is published by the Information Division for REA men and women on military furlough. Permission to quote from personal letters received by REA staff members is appreciated. Copies of SPAN (accompanying the Roll Call) are supplied by the REA Athletic Association.

### NOTES

The outdoor life is agreeing with Capt. Gus Anderson. He tips the scales at well over 200 lb. . . . Cpl. Al Gerber stopped by on his way to another post. He'd been at Aberdeen for 18 months. . . . Lt. S. Houston Lay sends his congratulations to Lieut.-Condr. Rushner on his recent promotion. . . . Russell Rehn, please send the Roll Call your address . . . Write the Roll Call when you have time. Your letters are welcome